GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4381
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005
REMNANTS OF A BIG CITY IN CHHATTISGARH
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that remnants of a big city has been found in Chhattisgarh during excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has not carried out excavations at Chhattisgarh recently. However, the Bodhisatva Nagarjuna Smarak Sanstha Va Anusandhan Kendra, Nagpur, in the years 1999-2001 and 2002-04, and subsequently the Department of Culture and Archaeology, Chhatisgarh, in the year 2004-05, have carried out excavations at Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund, in Chhattisgarh. The excavations have brought to light remains of an extensive city datable to circa 6th -9th century A.D. The city contained, among other things, remains of a large Buddhist monastic complex comprising a sanctum sanctorum, a sixteen pillared hall, and ten monk's cells. The complex has preserved evidence of rich carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha, amorous couples, floral and animal designs besides kirti-mukh motifs.